

Sunday Morning Message

April 14, 2019

Ye Are Dead

Topic – Adam’s sin; The Crucifixion; Spiritual death; death to self

Text – Colossians 3:1 - 17

Congregational Reading – Colossians 3:1 - 4

Introduction

This will be a two-part message. We will circle back to our text at the end of the message.

Explain the events of the week before Easter.

Today is Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday is the day that Jesus entered into Jerusalem, just a few days before His crucifixion. (See Matthew 21:1 – 10)

The significance of the “palm” is from John 12:

*"On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, **Took branches of palm trees**, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord."* (John 12:12-13)

To fully understand the events that take place during the Passion Week, we must go back and understand a little bit about the Jewish Passover.

Everything about the Crucifixion of Christ was foreshadowed by the events of the Passover.

*"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**"* (1 Corinthians 5:7)

*"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**"* (John 1:29)

Turn to Exodus 12:1 – 13 regarding the Passover

- The Lamb was selected on the tenth day of the month. (vs. 3 – 5)

This tenth day of the month when the Lamb was selected was when the Lord Jesus was selected by the congregation as their Messiah.

- The Lamb was to be killed on the fourteenth day of the month at even, meaning at sundown.

On the fourteenth day of the month, The Lord Jesus was crucified, and he was taken off of the Cross and laid in the tomb right before sundown.

- The blood of the Lamb was to be applied to the doorposts of the house so that the Death angel would pass over and not kill the firstborn child that lived in the house.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22)

It is my belief that the Crucifixion took place on Wednesday, not Friday.

*"For as Jonas was **three days and three nights** in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40)*

The confusion about the day of the crucifixion surrounds the word, "Sabbath." Jesus was taken off of the Cross and quickly placed in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb just before the Sabbath began. Typically, the Jewish Sabbath was at the end of every week beginning on Friday night at sundown, lasting until Saturday night at sundown. However, there were also special Sabbaths that took place periodically throughout the year. The Passover was a special Sabbath, and the Passover Sabbath didn't necessarily take place of Saturday (it did one year out of every seven), but rather on the tenth day of the month.

The Scriptures are clear - we know that Jesus rose from the dead before dawn on Sunday morning (Matthew 28:1 – the tomb was empty before the women arrived before dawn), so if you do the math and back up at least three days and three nights, you don't get to Friday afternoon.

I won't fight with you about the day of the Crucifixion. The important thing for us to agree on is that He died.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Transition

Today is Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Resurrection Sunday. So it was sometime this week, either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday that Jesus died, depending on how you interpret the Scriptures.

Today's message will be focused on Christ's death, and our death.

Next week, we will discuss Christ's resurrected life, as well as our resurrected life.

Our text verse is Colossians 3:3:

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3)

The Apostle Paul said to the churches of Galatia:

"I am crucified with Christ..." (Galatians 2:20)

What does the Bible mean when it refers to death? We all know that humanly, we will all die physically. But is there a spiritual death as well? And, can we be saved from that?

I In Adam, we were all dead spiritually.

Turn to Genesis 2:15 – 17

God said that Adam and Eve would die if they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Look at Genesis 3:6 – 7

However, when they ate of the fruit, they did not die physically – at least not yet, but they did die.

The eating of the fruit brought about an immediate spiritual death, but it also started the physical death process in the earth. The earth and everything in it would eventually die physically as well.

Look at Genesis 3:16 – 19

The Bible says that we are “in Adam.” Adam acted as the federal head of all mankind. His action brought about death to all the Earth and every creature in it.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22)

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Romans 5:12)

Every person born, though innocent at birth, is born with a sinful nature.

You are not a sinner because you sin, you sin because you are a sinner. You were born with an inherent sinful human nature.

You were born physically alive, but dead spiritually.

That is why you needed to be born-again.

II In Christ, you are alive spiritually

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:18-21)

Turn to John 3:1 – 18 – You were born dead spiritually, but if you place your faith in Christ, you will be made alive spiritually.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" (Ephesians 2:1)

The word “quicken,” means to give life to.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," (Ephesians 1:13)

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22)

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36)

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." (John 6:40, 47)

You were born dead, spiritually, and eventually physically as well. But, if you trust Christ, you will be given spiritual life, and when this physical body dies, your spiritual life will continue after the grave into everlasting life with the Lord in Heaven.

"Jesus said unto her [Martha], I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25-26)

III In Christ, You Must Die Again

Jesus was crucified in your place. He paid the atonement for you – not only for the individual sinful deeds that you have done, but also for the sinful person you are.

Turn back to our text in Colossians 3:

Notice in v. 5 – the word, “mortify.” It means put to death.

Baptism symbolizes this process of death and life for the believer.

Turn to Romans 6:3 - 14

Conclusion

Before Christ you were dead in your trespasses and sins.

Because Christ died for you, in your place, you can be made alive if you simply believe on Him.

Now as a Christian with eternal and everlasting life, you must continuously remember that positionally your old, Adamic sinful nature is dead because of Christ’s death, and in a practical sense you need to keep it that way. That old sinful nature of yours resurrects itself, and it needs to be put to death again – at least in your understanding.

You need to see yourself as dead to sin because of Christ's death for you. And, you need to see yourself as alive because of Christ's resurrection.

If you are a believer, your old Adamic nature is indeed dead. If you are in Christ, it has been crucified. You need to understand that, remembering that also in Christ you have been given a new resurrected life through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3)

Illustration – Bruce Frye – “The Old Man is Dead”

Now and then an old friend of mine
I've not seen in some time
will stop by and ask me
where I've been? what's on my mind?
they wonder why I'm not drinking
and still painting this old town red
I tell them I'm serving Jesus now
and the old man is dead

The man you see before you
may look a lot the same
I may wear the same clothes
and have the same old name
but you're looking on the outside
if you could see inside instead
you would see a brand new man
'cause the old man is dead

I use to live such a wicked life
I had no hope in sight
I was lost in the darkness
searching for the light
then one night in a little church
after hearing what the preacher said
I gave my life to Jesus
and the old man is dead

you're looking on the outside
if you could see the inside instead
you would see a brand new man
'cause the old man is dead